

Amendment to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-16 (canceled)

17. (previously presented) A method for improved glucan resorption in skin or hair comprising applying to the skin or hair a cosmetic composition comprising nanoparticulate water-soluble β -(1,3)-glucans, which have intact β -(1,3) side chains and are free from repetitive β -(1,6) linkages and have particle diameters of about 10 to 300 nm.

18. (previously presented) The method according to claim 17, comprising glucans based on yeast of the family *Saccharomyces*.

19. (previously presented) The method according to claim 17, wherein the nanoparticulate glucans are embedded in a protective colloid.

20. (previously presented) The method according to claim 19, wherein the protective colloid is selected from the group consisting of polyvinyl alcohol and polyethylene glycol.

21. (previously presented) The method according to claim 17, wherein the glucan is present in the amount of about 0.1% to about 5% by weight relative to the cosmetic composition.

22. (previously amended) The method according to claim 17, wherein the nanoparticulate water-soluble β -(1,3)-glucans have improved resorption in skin and hair.

23. (previously presented) The method according to claim 17, wherein cosmetic composition is a sun radiation protective agent.

24. (previously presented) A method of preparing glucans for use in a cosmetic composition which has improved glucan resorption comprising the steps of:

(a) preparing water-soluble β -(1,3)-glucans, which have intact β -(1,3) side chains and are free from repetitive β -(1,6) linkages and have particle diameters of about 10 to 300 nm, by the process comprising contacting glucan β -(1,3) and β -(1,6) linkages with β -(1,6) glucanases to loosen substantially all β -(1,6) linkages and reducing the size of the resulting glucans into nanoparticulate form, and (b) embedding the nanoparticulate glucans in a protective colloid.

25. (cancelled)

26. (previously presented) The method according to claim 24, wherein the reduction of the size of the resulting glucans into nanoparticulate form comprises the steps of:

- a) dissolving the water-soluble β -(1,3) glucans under supercritical conditions
- b) relaxing fluid pressure through a nozzle in a vacuum, gas or liquid, and
- c) evaporating the solvent.

27. (previously presented) The method according to claim 26, wherein the conditions for dissolving the water-soluble solvent are close to critical condition.

28. (cancelled)

29. (currently amended) The method according to claim 28 24, wherein the protective ~~colloids are~~ collard is selected from the group consisting of polyvinyl alcohol and polyethylene alcohol.

30. (previously presented) The method according to claim 26, wherein the glucan is present in the amount of about 0.1% to 5% by weight relative to the cosmetic composition.

31. (previously presented) A cosmetic composition comprising nanoparticulate water-soluble β -(1,3)-glucans, which have intact β -(1,3) side chains and are free from repetitive β -(1,6) linkages and have particle diameters ranging in size from about 10 to 300 nm. embedded in a protective colloid.

32. (previously presented) The cosmetic composition of claim 31, wherein the glucan is present in the amount of about 0.1% to about 5% by weight.